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Number of copies ☐

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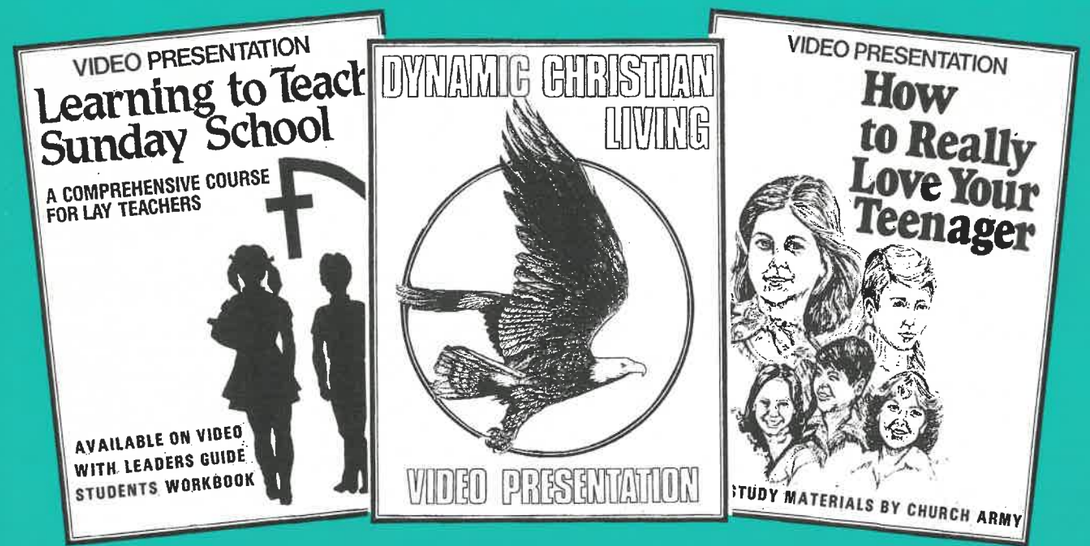
THE PIONEER
THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA

CHURCH ARMY PARISH RESOURCES



CHURCH ARMY IN AUSTRALIA
A Society of Evangelists within the Anglican Church

Reg. by Aust. Post
Publication No. NAR1149

MARCH, 1988

NEW OFFICERS

CAPTAIN PETER ADKINS

Captain Adkins originally from England came to Church Army from St. Matthew's, Manly.

Married to Gwen who he met at Manly, they have a 14-month-old son, Timothy. They are now living at Bundaberg (Brisbane Diocese) where Peter is the Anglican Youth Co-ordinator.

Peter enjoys surfing and is a keen photographer. His singing, self-accompanied on guitar, uplifts any worship occasion.

Captain Adkins was commissioned as a Church Army Officer and admitted to the Office of Evangelist on December 10th, 1987.

Captain Peter and Mrs Gwen Adkins and Timothy.

Captain Michael and Mrs Wendy Calder.

CAPTAIN MICHAEL CALDER

Captain Calder is a New Zealander. Prior to Church Army, he served for 14 years in the New Zealand Army.

Recently married to Wendy who he met during a mission in her home parish of Belmont (Newcastle, N.S.W.). Michael is an avid reader, enjoys walking and admits to being only an average chess player.

Commissioned as a Church Army Officer and admitted to the Office of Evangelist on December 10th, 1987, Michael has now been appointed as Chaplain to Missions to Seamen at Dampier, in the Diocese of North West Australia, where Michael and Wendy will be setting up house.

CAPTAIN JACK HARRADINE

Captain Harradine was born and brought up in Point Pearce, South Australia. Jack is married to Lily who's a superb cook and has the gift of hospitality.

They have three children, Marina 9, Alby 6 and Ella 3. Home for the Harradines during Jack's two years training has been at West Guildford where Jack assisted in leading the work at that branch church.

Sports for Jack since a boy have been football and boxing. He also excels at table tennis!

Recently commissioned December 10th, 1987, as a Church Army Officer and admitted to the Office of Evangelist, Captain Harradine takes up the appointment as Evangelist to aboriginal people at Rockhampton.

Captain Jack and Mrs Lily Harradine.

Captain Conrad Parsons.

CAPTAIN CONRAD PARSONS

Captain Parsons comes from the Blue Mountains area. His home church is Christ Church, Springwood.

Conrad plays bass guitar and enjoys music. He's had experience on Scripture Union Family Missions and at various youth conferences. During his two years Church Army training, Conrad shared responsibility for young people's work in the parishes of Mona Vale and Terrigal.

Captain Parsons was commissioned as a Church Army Officer and admitted to the office of Evangelist on December 10th, 1987.

He has now been appointed Parish and Youth Evangelist in the Parish of Botany/Mascot, Sydney Diocese.

CHURCH ARMY ON THE MOVE

From January 18th to 22nd, the Church Army was in Conference at Gilbulla. Over 40 officers attended, many with their wives or husbands and families. They came from all over Australia, some travelled long distances to be there. It only happens every two years, it's an occasion no-one wants to miss.

Predictably, much of the first ½ day was spent renewing old friendships and sharing news. New babies were duly admired and older children organised into controllable groups. Then it was down to business.

The main theme was "Forward—On-Course" and forward we went! Sister Lu' Piper shared with us how to work the parish system and to make it work in evangelism. Taking the usual parish organisations and events, etc. and systematically getting the most effective results from them. (See page 10)

"Urban Evangelism" was Rev. Captain John McKnight's topic. As Rector of St. John's, Darlinghurst, he told us about ministry in the Cross (Kings Cross). He likened it to a battle field and grimly referred to the many casualties.

Also on that team ministry, Captain Guy Davidson held a workshop that dealt graphically with the A.I.D.S. problem. As the senior counsellor at a hostel for A.I.D.S. sufferers, Guy said: "There's no easy answer to it all", but felt that the Church has to face the challenge before it.

Bishop Arthur Malcolm and Captain Jack Harradine both aboriginals, expressed fears about the Church and its attitude towards the various conditions that aboriginals have to put up with.

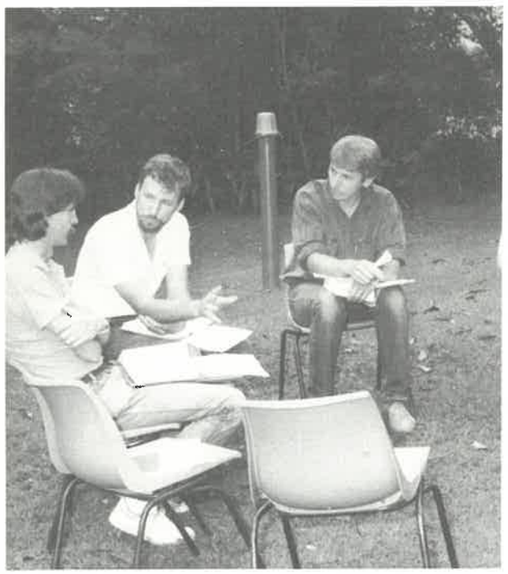
Open times of sharing found officers questioning the acceptance of Church Army's role within the Church. As Captain Bruce Geeves said, "Too often we hear a dribble of a Gospel message—we need a clear Gospel presentation, and a call to repentance. Church Army has the ability", he went on to say, "We don't talk in Synod terms, but in passionate terms!"

One sad note of the Conference was the announcement by Captain Gilbert Page, Federal Director of the Church Army in Australia, of his resignation, effective at the end of 1988. Captain Page made it clear that '88 was not going to be a year of winding down for him or the Church Army.

"We need to be in the frontline not in the operations room", he told officers. "We must remain a Society of Evangelists—and not simply become a group of parish educators and youth workers!"

As someone was heard to say, "Watch out for Church Army—they're on the march with the message of their Lord!"

Rev. Captain John McKnight.



Sharing group.

Old friends—Captain Doug Qualye and Mrs Fisk.

PRAYER GUIDE 1988

If you receive your Pioneer by mail, you will find inserted in it the 1988 Church Army Prayer Guide. It could be however that your copy of the Pioneer has come to you some other way without the Prayer Guide. If so, and you'd like one, or else you need more for one of your Church groups, etc. please write to me, Wal. Spencer, The Church Army Centre, P.O. Box 107, Frenchs Forest, N.S.W. 2086, or ring me on (02) 451 8395 or (02) 451 0928.

I hope you will find your Prayer Guide informative and easy to use.

Thank you for your prayers and encouragement.

Wal. Spencer

YES! I WANT TO JOIN IN THE FRONTLINE EVANGELISM OF CHURCH ARMY.

YES! I WANT TO KNOW MORE.

Ring (02) 451 8395 or (02) 451 0928
or write
The Church Army in Australia,
P.O. Box 107,
FRENCHS FOREST. NSW. 2086.

YES! I WANT TO HELP.

Please pray for this outreach ministry.

Please give generously.

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THE CHURCH ARMY
IN AUSTRALIA

PRAYER GUIDE 1988

OPENING DOORS

Most of us find the many activities we have to undertake every day eat up so much time, there seems little opportunity to pray as much as we would like. For many years I have suggested to people something I have found helpful myself. Prayer can be linked to a particular activity that reminds us of a certain person or situation. For example, when cooking or eating a meal, we can pray for the hungry; when washing, we can thank God for cleansing us from sin; when coming back to our own house, pray for the homeless; when taking part in some sport, pray for the handicapped; etc.

The Church Army is in the business of opening doors, and I would like to ask you to help us — by your prayers. Every time you open a door, would you remember the work of our Society?

In Australia today there are:

- Doors of opportunity: Church Army must respond to need, and open up new ways of reaching people.
- Doors to human hearts: Many have shut God out of their lives. May the gospel message unlock closed understandings to bring life and forgiveness.
- Doors of opposition: There are those who actively oppose Christian teaching. May the Holy Spirit break down all that would hinder the work of Christ.
- Prison doors: Many are locked into a lonely world of personal darkness. The grace of God can bring deliverance and freedom.
- Doors of ministry: With greater resources Church Army could reach out even more effectively. May we receive the financial resources, and young people called by God to the work of evangelism.

In your home, your office, your school, your farm, your car, your local shopping centre. . . there are front doors, cupboard doors, oven doors — and many others. Whenever you open a door, would you pray for the ministry of Church Army? This leaflet lists the names of all our officers, and explains where they are working. They rely very heavily upon your prayer support. Please would you remember them by name, and those with whom they long to share the love of Jesus? During this special year in Australia's history, the power of prayer — your prayer — will enable many Australians — black and white — to enter into the fullness of blessing which the Lord wants them to experience.

To open doors, the Church Army does not need a locksmith or a battering ram — but we do need prayer partners. Will you help us?

Gilbert A. Page,
Federal Director.

WELCOME

THE CHURCH ARMY CENTRE
P.O. BOX 107, FRENCHS FOREST, N.S.W. 2086
TEL: 451 8395 TEL: 451 0928.

WILLS & BEQUESTS

REMEMBER GOD'S WILL IN YOUR WORK
AND REMEMBER GOD S WORK IN YOUR WILL

The Church Army has been in Australia for over 50 years. Through its Officers, men and women, its ministry has been felt in many parishes. Our vision is to grow and to extend our ministry throughout Australia. You can support this vision by making a special and lasting gift to Church Army through your will.

PLEASE SEND ME MORE INFORMATION

Rev. Mr. Mrs. M/s .....

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Church Army Centre,
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EDITORIAL
"The Dream"

The Tollkeeper said, "I'm sorry, you can't come through!" It was peak hour on the Sydney Harbour Bridge. "Why not?", I said and offered him my dollar.

"That's not a vehicle!" he said emphatically!—which was true, I was in fact riding an elephant. We exchanged more words and by this time the traffic behind me was piling up. Pointing this out to the Tollkeeper, I convinced him of the impracticality of me turning around and going back the way I'd come. Begrudgingly he agreed and took my dollar. With this I dug my heels into the elephant to coax him through the tollgate. Unfortunately, this made me lose one of my shoes and I had to dismount to pick it up. Not being very elephant-wise I didn't know how to make it kneel! So I had to swing off from one of its ears. Remounting proved to be more difficult and soon the drivers of the vehicles behind me were honking their horns impatiently. In desperation I grabbed the elephant by its trunk and pulled, suddenly I woke up, for I'd been having a dream. The dream had been so vivid and life-like that I felt as though it had all really happened.

Another dream I have is of the Church Army in Australia. I see a society with many more officers in the field; serving all over Australia in many new and exciting ministries; working as a team with the Anglican Church; recognised as front-line Evangelists. Because of the Church Army skills and expertise, lay people are being trained in Evangelism and empowered by the Holy Spirit, they are reaching out. The Church is revitalised. People are turning back to Jesus Christ.

Some would say that the second dream is almost as improbable as the first. I say it is not! It is how we tackle the job that will make the difference. With the Lord's blessing and your continuing support, it is possible and it will come true.

This year more than ever we need your prayerful and financial help. Just to do the things that need to be done we have to raise $150,000. At least half of this amount will come from individual supporters. The rest will come from special fundraising events, activities and appeals, etc., allocations from groups, parishes and dioceses, wills and bequests, and other sources. Let me tell you how we will use your gifts. Much of it unfortunately will be used on such basic yet necessary things like: administration, maintenance, publicity, travel and research. The rest will be for more exciting things, field training, mission preparation, ministry to officers, part funding of the 'Van Ministry, the College Building Fund, specialist and new ministries, plus many other areas appertaining to ministry.

In this Pioneer, you have received our 1988 Church Army Prayer Guide. When you use it, you will see where and how your donations are being used. Right throughout much of Australia our officers are bringing the Gospel to people in communities like yours. It is my privilege to tell you about them and their ministry.

Together we can see that it continues and increases.

Thank you for your support and encouragement.

May God bless you all.

Wal Spencer,
Publicity and Development.

FUNDRAISERS

POSTAGE STAMPS

Vic McKune an ardent Church Army supporter and keen stamp collector from the local church St. Stephens, Belrose, gives a lot of time and expertise to our postage stamp fundraising effort. He sorts the stamps that other Church Army supporters send us and sells them to other collectors or dealers, used Australian stamps are sold in bulk and go overseas. We don't get a great deal of income from this source. It is from foreign or rarer stamps that we get a higher income. Occasionally someone donates an album of stamps from which we may get a stamp or stamps that are in demand.

All stamps are welcome and we appreciate those already sending them and urge others to help us this way.

POSTCARDS

It's remarkable what people collect as hobbies and therefore are willing to buy. We seek old picture postcards, particularly featuring churches, bridges and railways.

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSPAPERS

Special edition newspapers and magazines are in great demand. Newspapers headlining such events as the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge or Royal occasions, or the outbreak of World War I (or II), or any event, etc. of note.

Naturally, whether it's stamps, papers or postcards, the better the condition the more valuable they are.

Please send Stamps, Postcards and Special Edition Newspapers to:

The Publicity Department,
Church Army Centre,
P.O. Box 107, Frenchs Forest,
N.S.W. 2086.

Remember what usually gets thrown away or stored in your spare room can help fund the frontline Evangelism of Church Army.

A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO OUTREACH

Sister Lu' Piper (dark skirt) with co-worker.

Sister Lu' Piper works at St. Luke's Mosman, Sydney. She says: "Faced with a high density urban population, and my brief being to work with young families, I thought, how does one get known? How does one get accepted into homes and get information about what the Church has to offer into the community? It took me two years to realize I was really getting nowhere and then two years to develop an approach which is now taking off."

She continues: "There is much which already exists within Anglican parish structures that can be utilized to establish a systematic approach to visiting by a person employed in ministry and which can be maintained by others in an ongoing way. If such a system is established, not only an improved communication between the parish and community can occur but also, at the same time, various aspects of parish ministry can be integrated so that they can be supportive to each other.

Over the past few years at St. Luke's, I have established recording systems enabling outreach to families of children taught in school scripture classes, Sunday school, confirmation classes and youth groups and, along with Baptism follow-ups, drawn all these aspects together so that they are integrated and help each other grow. All families thus recorded are also fed into a visiting system through which the Parish Paper is distributed, pastoral care issues noted and by which grass-roots evangelism can take place. This visiting system, based on geographical zones within the parish area, is manned by parishioners. Training courses for them in pastoral care and evangelism are envisaged.

If information about people is organized efficiently, systems thus developed can be built that will give you time with those people, enabling you to get out and on with the job of evangelism in your community. A systematic approach, such as this, can stimulate growth and it will encourage lay people to be involved in ministry. Why not give it a try?"

Sister Piper is willing to share her ideas with any parish group. She has a well-co-ordinated two-hour session ready to present using overheads, hand-outs, practical aids which will help people to think through what might work for them in their parish situation. She realizes that it would be unlikely to find that something that works in one parish can be transferred exactly to another, but in that she is using only basic structures and information that is readily available, it is to be expected that there will be something in her presentation that will spark off ideas for you and your parish family. Her talk would be suitable for anyone in your parish interested in outreach—for example, Sunday School teachers, Scripture teachers, parish councillors, youth group leaders, pastoral care people, etc.—though of course outreach into community should interest everyone!

Saturday morning seminars, 9.30 a.m.–12.00 p.m., can be arranged in your parish. $5.00 per participant plus $50.00 from the parish. A Seminar would need to have a minimum of 10 participants to be practical.

Contact Wal. Spencer, The Church Army Centre, P.O. Box 107, Frenchs Forest, N.S.W., 2086, or ring (02) 451 8395 or (02) 451 0928.

BOOK REVIEW
Rebuild Your Life

REBUILD YOUR LIFE
By Dale E. Galloway—$8.95
How to survive a crisis—Tyndale House Publishers

This is a very challenging an stimulating book written by a person who has had to rebuild his own life with God's help after his wife unexpectedly divorced him, taking their two children with her. He lost his marriage, his ministry, his peace. BUT, out of brokenness came a new dream of joyful living and usefulness. God rebuilt his life, and promises to rebuild your life, too.

If you are looking for principles for helping others or a book to encourage and help someone going through a difficult time this could be it.

It covers such topics as:

Accepting what you cannot change;
Put your failures behind you and move ahead;
Slam the door on self-pity; and
How to turn the scars into stars.

Chapters include:

(P) Put your failures behind you and move ahead.
(E) Encouraged to slam the door on self-pity.
(A) Accept what you cannot change.
(C) Choose and cultivate a positive attitude.
(E) Encourage to believe the best is yet to come.

This is a book that has challenged me personally and one that I have used in assisting others to believe that the best is yet to come!

Captain John Harding, C.A.

Available from the Church Army Bookshop and other Christian bookshops

VAN MINISTRY NEWS

After four years as Senior Missioner with the "I" Witness 'Van Ministry which she was primarily responsible for setting up, Sister Lyn Geeves (nee Bullard) returns to other ministries. Sister Geeves will be involved in parish work, lecturing at the Church Army College, and specialist outreach work.

Sister Sabina Fantoni has now been appointed Senior Missioner.

New to the 'Van Ministry mission team is Miss Robyn Porter. Robyn comes from Cobar, in the far west of N.S.W. An art teacher, Robyn's interests are music, guitar and piano, singing, writing, drawing and drama.

At the recent Church Army Conference, she was commissioned by Capt. Gilbert Page, the Federal Director, as a Partner in Evangelism, and an Associate in the "I" Witness 'Van Ministry. A laying-on of hands by officers welcomed her into the Church Army family.

First mission in 1988 for the team is at St. Peter's Sandy Bay, where Rev. Canon Keith Nancarrow is the Rector. St. Peter's, Sandy Bay, is one of the oldest parishes in Hobart, with outreach and ministry to the nearby University of Tasmania.

"Participate in '88" is the mission slogan adopted by the parish. It is believed that this is the first three-month mission ever held in Tasmania, and great interest is being shown by other parishes in its progress and outcome.

(Left to Right): Sister Lyn Geeves, Sister Sabina Fantoni and Miss Robyn Porter.

Laying-on of hands.

HOME AWAY FROM HOME

What do you do when things sometimes get you down? You look for help and advice to overcome whatever the difficulty is, don't you?

"Well, College life can have its ups and downs too, says Peter Mathews, Co-ordinator for the Church Army College Students Pastoral Support Group. Students get homesick and they miss their friends and families. Daily they're faced with new situations. For many it's hard to adjust to going back to the class room. Just living together with others can be hard to cope with. Lack of privacy and not being able to spend much time on your own can be hard too."

Peter, a retired engineer, a father and a grandfather, has always been interested in young people. Three and a-half days a week he's involved in a community employment scheme for young people who work in the homes of the elderly. The rest of his time seems to be divided between his family, his Church (he's been a member of St. Peter's Anglican Church, Hornsby for over 50 years) and Church Army.

The Student Pastoral Support Group are seen as an extension of family for the students. It's been referred to as a listening post for things good and bad. Those families who are in the support group see it as an encouragement role. They make a point of attending special activities at the College or at the parish where "their student" is doing his or her weekend practical training. Occasions like the preaching of their first sermon, and almost definitely the Commissioning Service at the end of the two-year training.

"I think I speak for all the support group said Peter during one of his weekly visits to the College, when I say that it is satisfying and rewarding to be of help to the students and to make available a home away from home. All it often can mean is inviting them along for a meal or the occasional weekend now and then, or just being around when they want to talk to someone. If you live in the Sydney area and are interested in being part of this group, ring me at home one evening on 477 3551. I'll be only too pleased to talk things over with you."

(Left to Right): Jane Ingham, Peter Mathews, Peter Hewitt.

We hope you will consider being a part of this family of encouragers and we thank those many caring people already part of this special ministry to our students.

Wal Spencer.